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# **Public-Private Partnerships to Grow Organic**

U.S. Foodmakers: Strategies to Expand Domestic Sourcing  
of Organic Supplies – USDA Ag Outlook Forum 2019





## USE OF ORGANIC AT CLIF BAR & COMPANY



**>1 BILLION  
POUNDS**

of organic ingredients  
used since 2003

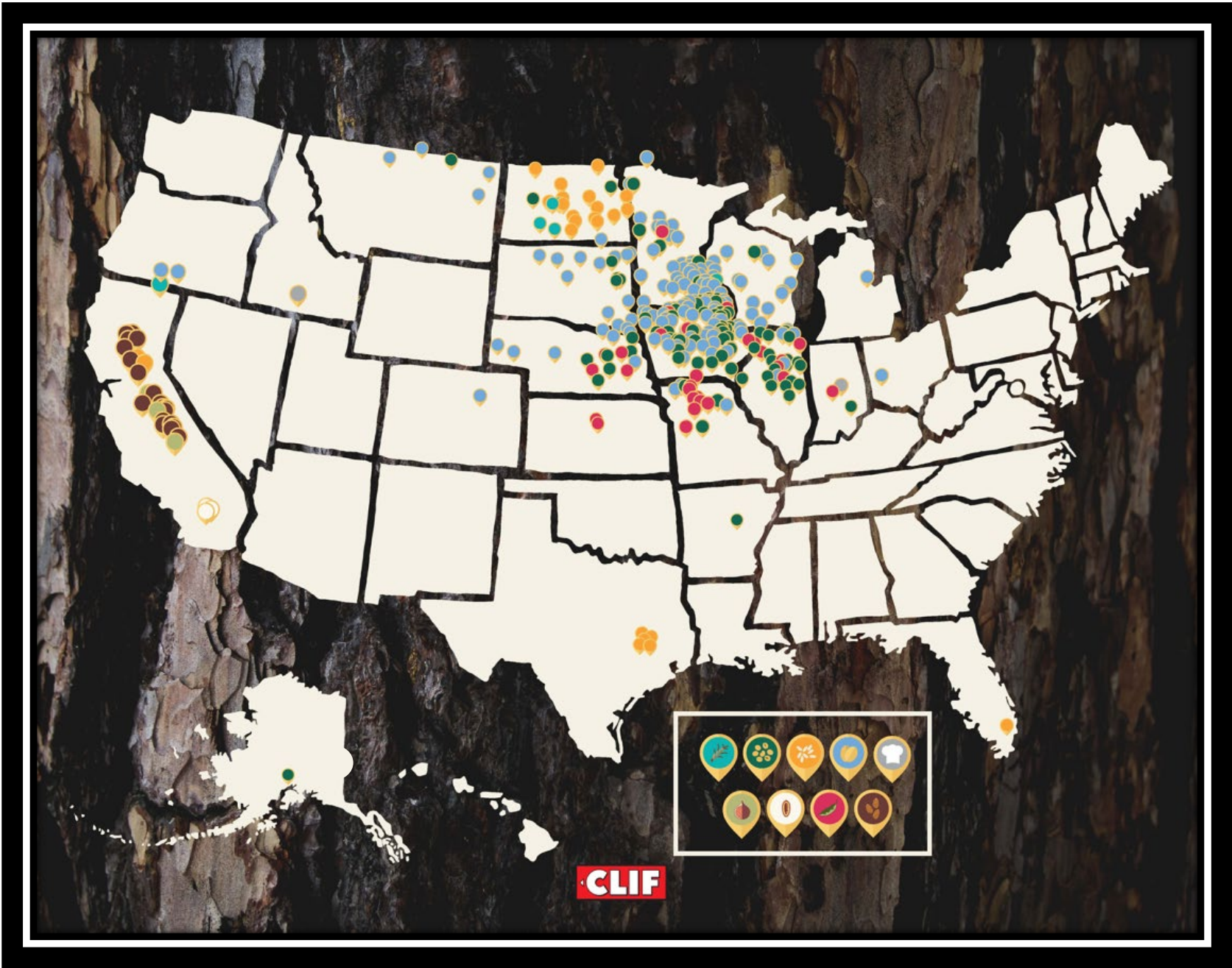
**12 organic brands  
3 conventional**

**56 crop types  
>140 unique  
ingredients**

**76%**

OF ALL INGREDIENTS  
we buy are organic





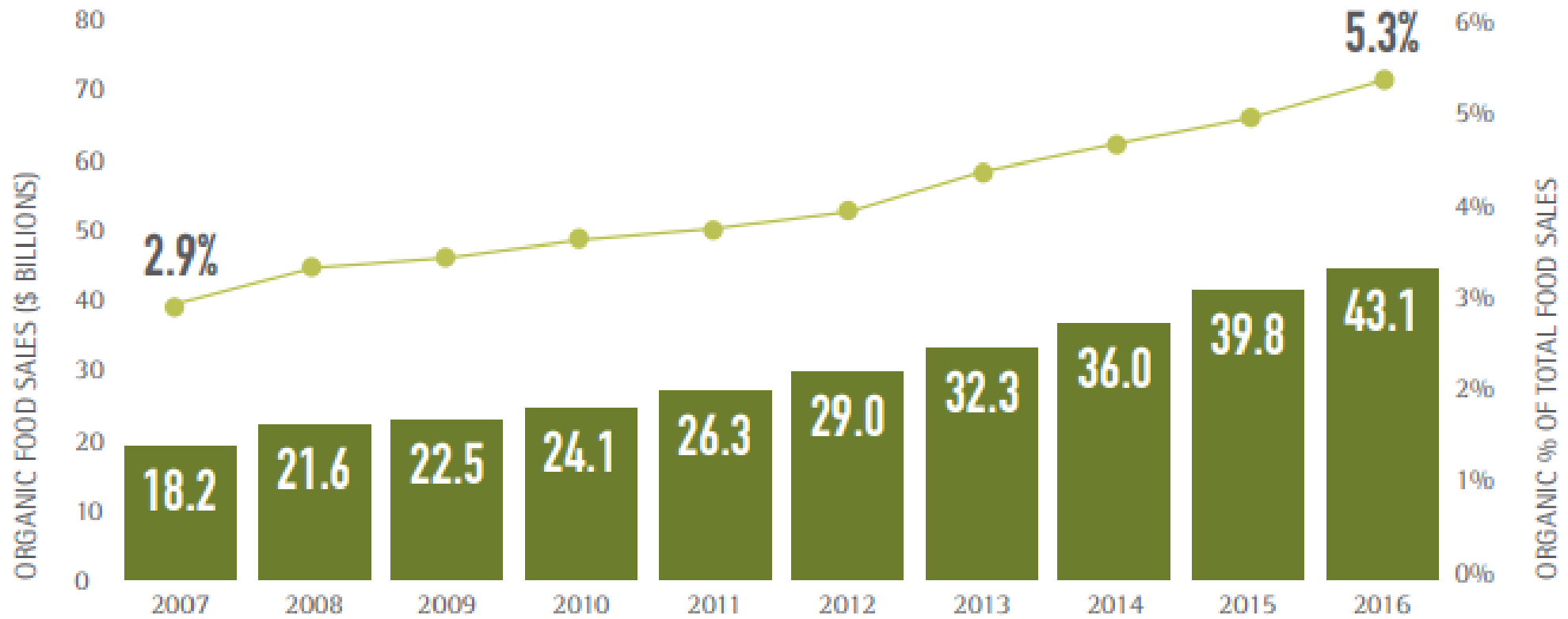


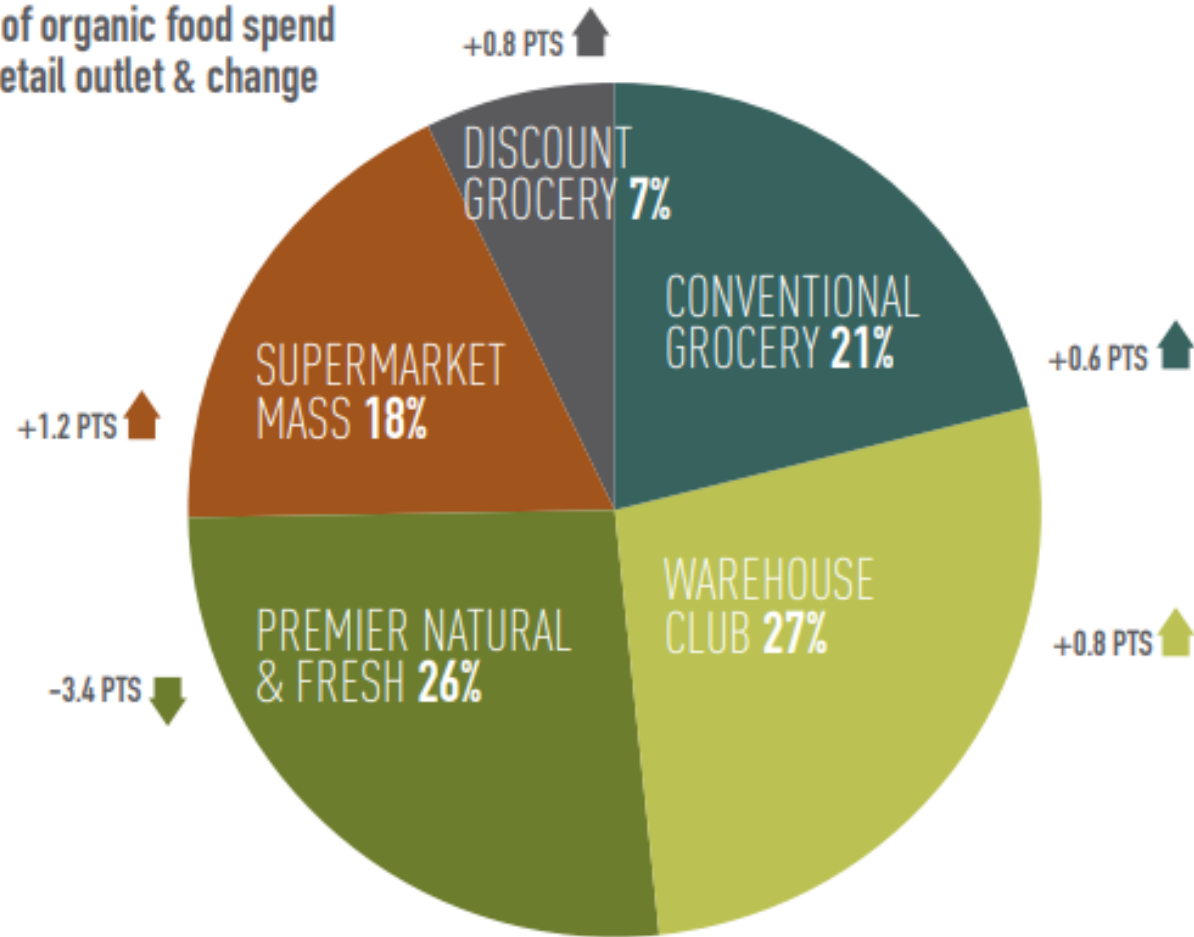
Exhibit 1: Organic food sales have steadily grown as a % of total food sales

Source: Organic Trade Association, 2017 Organic Industry Survey





2017 share of organic food spend  
by type of retail outlet & change  
from 2015\*



\*PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD DUE TO ROUNDING

Exhibit 2: **Organic spending is shifting away from premier and specialty stores toward the mainstream**

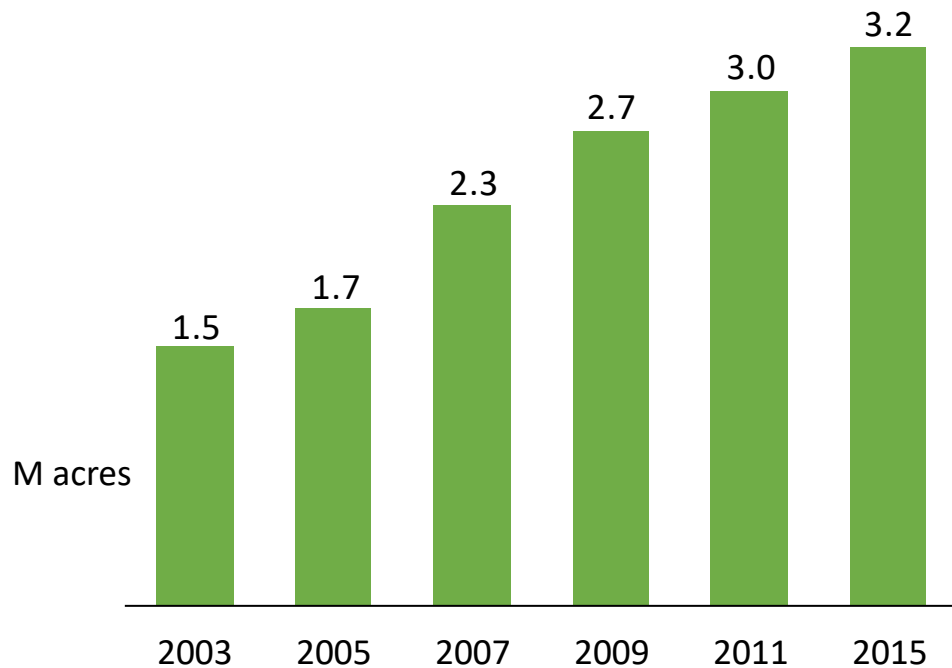
Source: Nielsen Answers On-Demand Syndicated Panel, 52 weeks ending 07/29/2017.





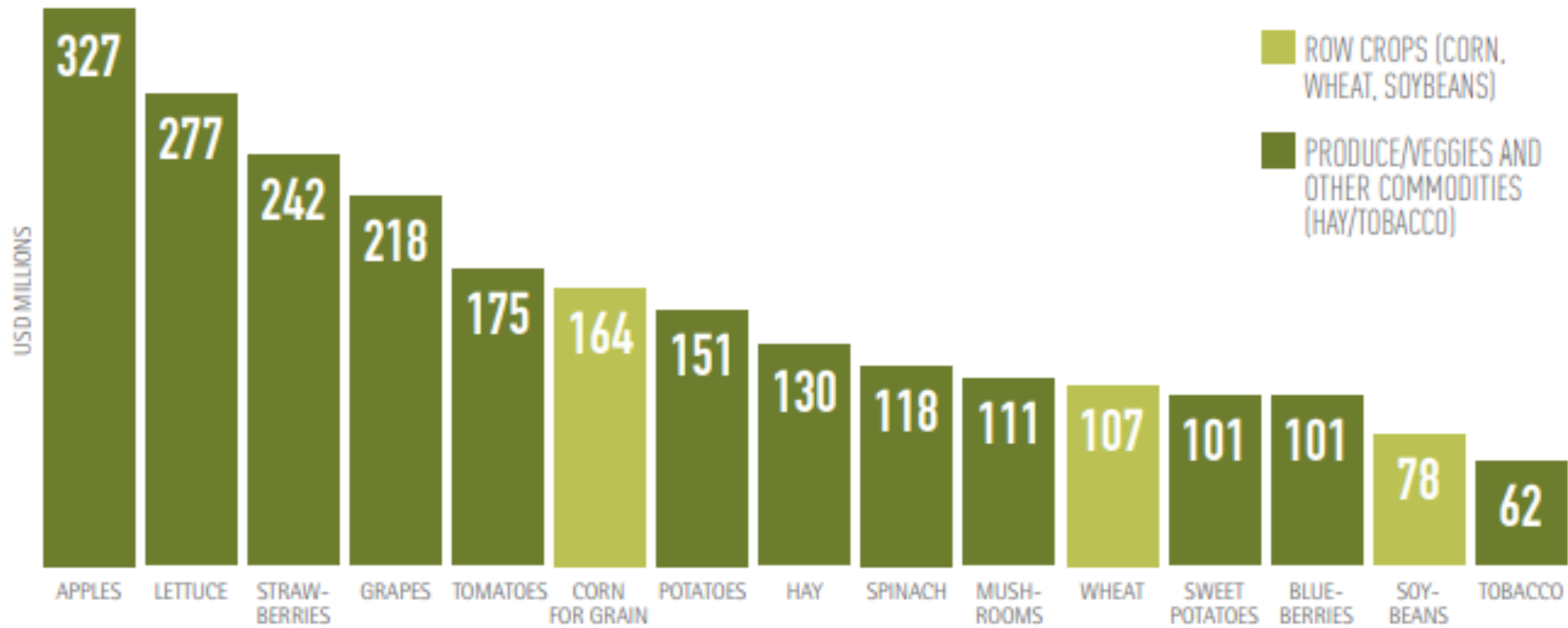
# MARKET POTENTIAL FOR PRODUCERS

## 6.5% annual growth in organic cropland



## Expected to accelerate

- Steady growth in consumer demand for organics
- Increased scrutiny of organic imports creating favorable conditions for domestic production
- Slump in conventional commodity prices creates incentive to transition



### Exhibit 3: Corn, soybeans, and wheat comprise only 9% of organic crop sales

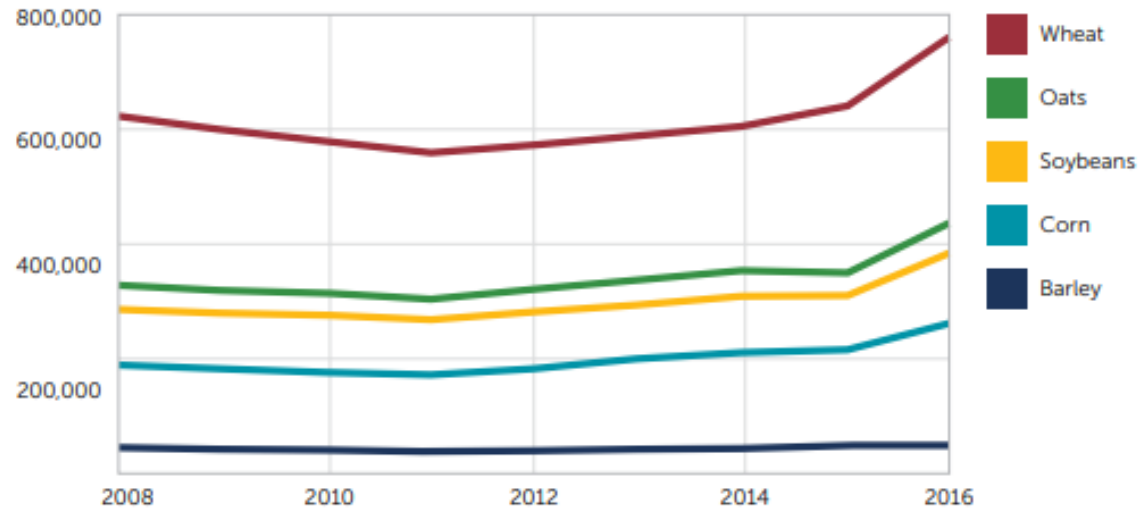
Source: USDA's 2016 Certified Organic Survey, NASS Highlights. Accessed 12/1/18 at [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights/2017/2016\\_Certified\\_Organic\\_Survey\\_Highlights.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights/2017/2016_Certified_Organic_Survey_Highlights.pdf).





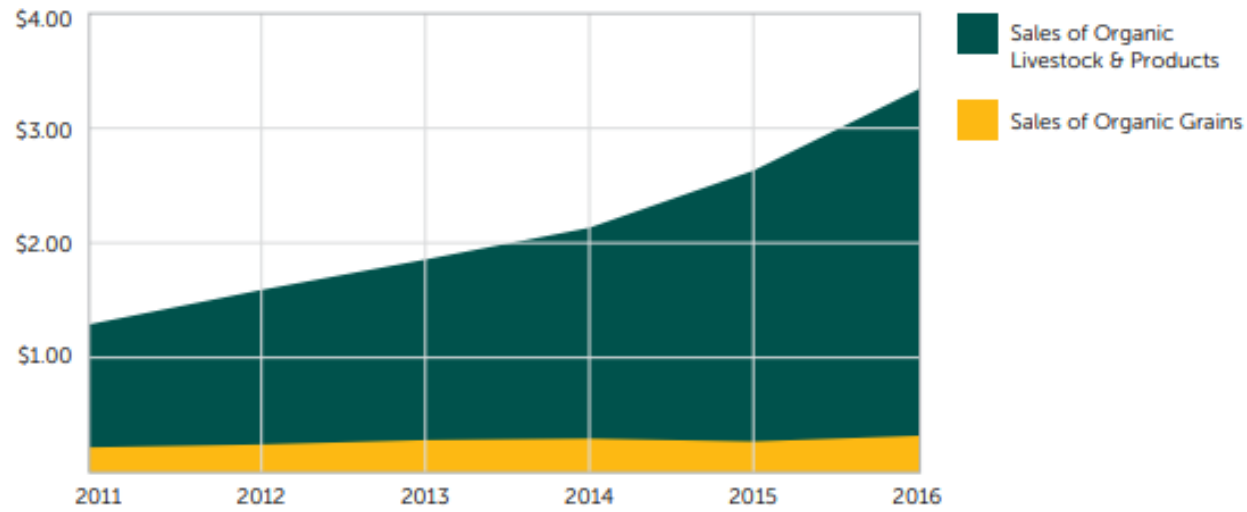


Figure 2: US Organic Grain Acreage, 2008–2016



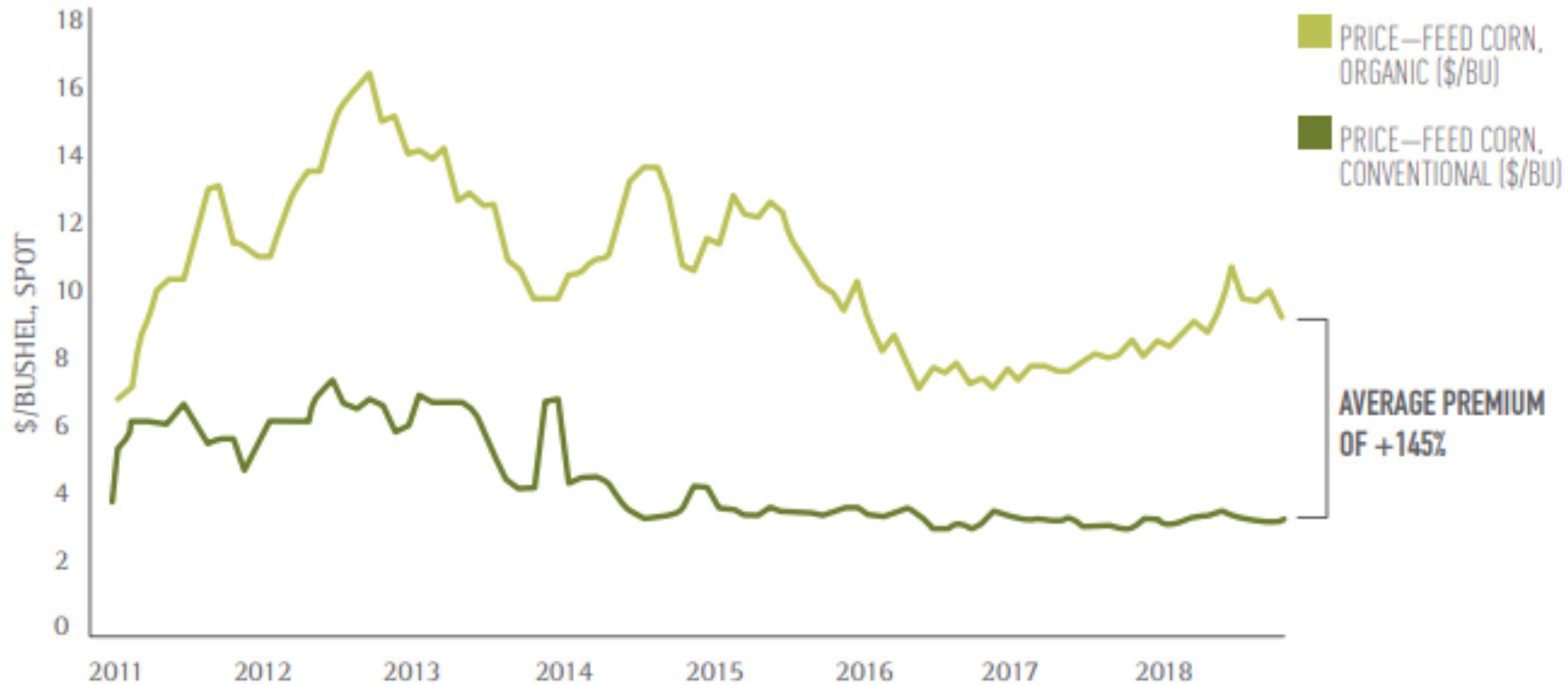
Source: USDA NASS Quickstats Database.

Figure 3: Growth of Organic Livestock Products Industry and Organic Grains (in billions)



Sources: USDA NASS Quickstats Database





#### Exhibit 4: Organic corn shows persistent historical price premium over conventional alternative

Source: Organic prices from author correspondence with USDA AMS (Agricultural Marketing Service), midpoint of national range for organic feed corn. Conventional prices from USDA NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Survey), U.S. Total monthly price received.





# CONSTRAINTS TO ORGANIC

## Agronomics

**30-40%** yield gap between conventional and organic crops in our supply chain

**0** organic extension agents in California (out of 288)

**0.7%** the share of USDA research funding earmarked for organic

**A dozen** organic plant breeders in the US (out of >1,000)

## Economics

**3** years to transition

**3+** crop rotations – and hence more land – required

**75%** of transitioning farmers cite the cost of organic inputs as an obstacle

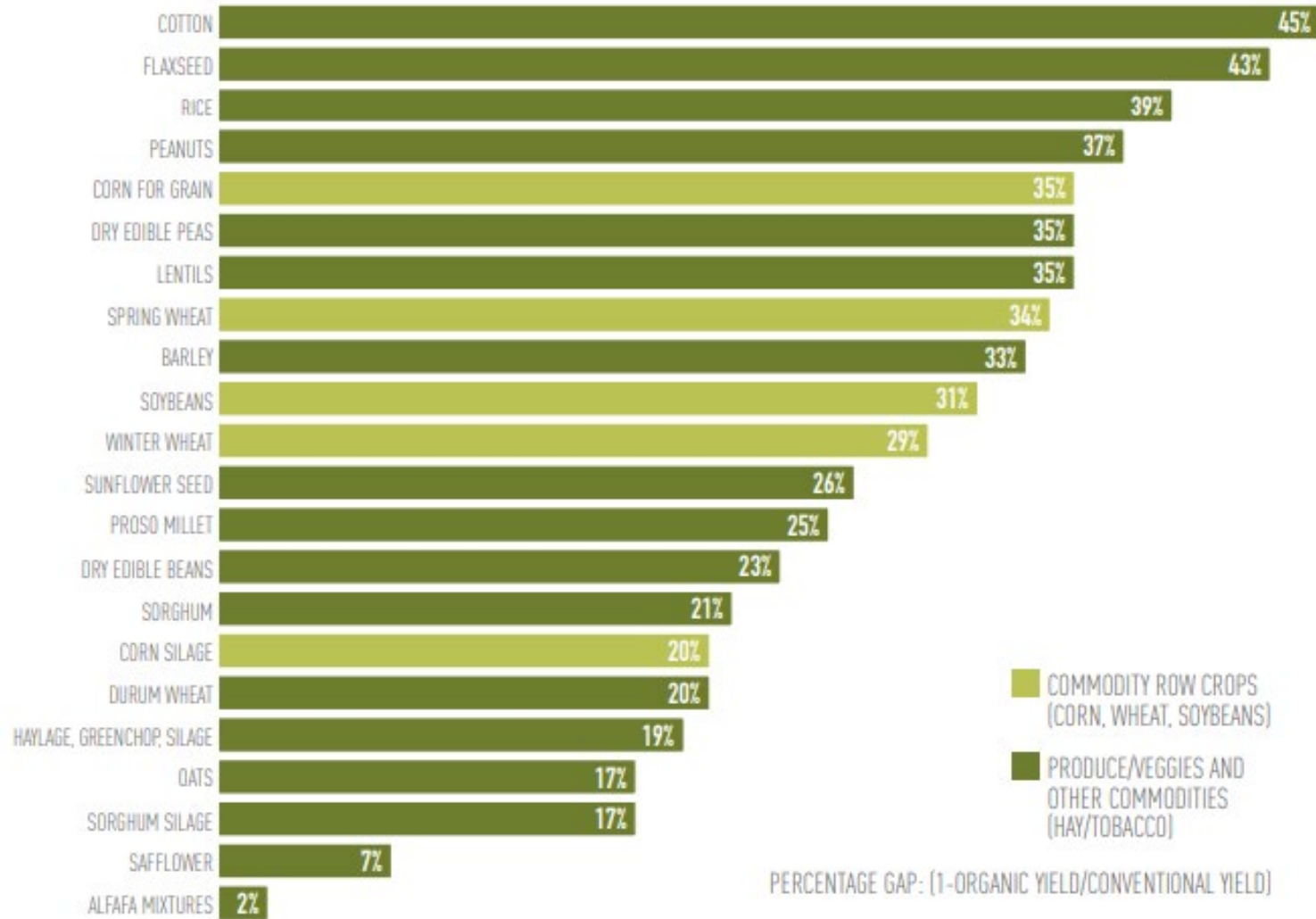
**-45%** drop in Mercaris Organic Grain Index\* from 2013 to 2016

**40:1** conventional to organic processing facilities in Illinois

## Culture

**83%** percent of organic farmers in NYFC\*\* survey who are first generation and thus lack direct access to land or know-how

**1<sup>st</sup>** ranking of “mentoring from experienced organic farmers” as a type of support for transition



**Exhibit 5: Average yields per acre for organic crops are substantially lower than conventional counterparts**

Source: Savage and Associates Consulting, independent analysis based on 2014 USDA Organic Survey data and USDA-NASS statistics.





# THE VALLEY OF DEATH

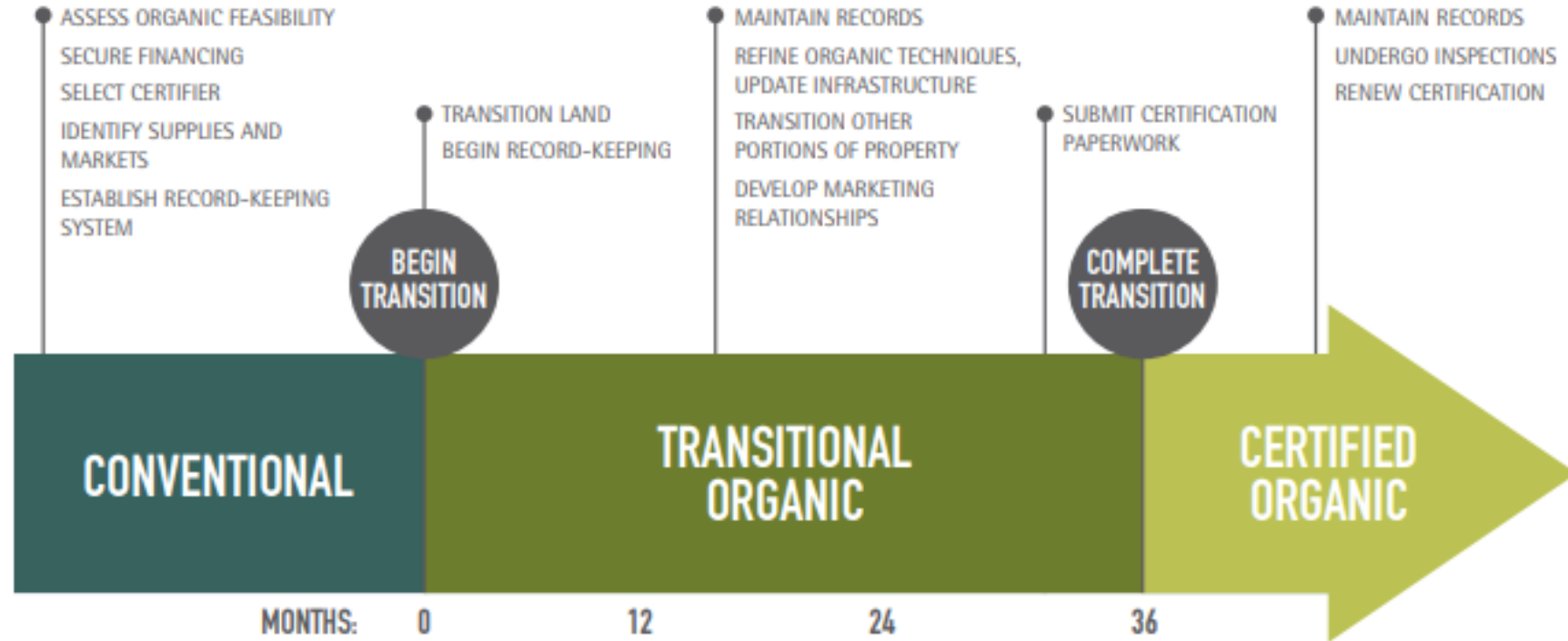


Exhibit 8: Organic transition is a complex, multi-step process

Source: Author analysis. More detail available at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/becoming-certified>. Adapted from MOSES Guidebook For Organic Certification.





## SOLUTIONS

- Industry pre-competitive collaboration
  - OTA Organic Grain Council
  - Organic Agronomy Training Series
- Long Term Price Contracts
- Research and Technical Assistance to close yield gap
- Infrastructure and other investments



Organic Trade  
Association:  
**ORGANIC GRAIN  
COUNCIL**



**US Organic Grain —**  
How to Keep it Growing

February 2019



# CLIF AG FUND



- **Technical assistance:** funding for variety trials, farmer field days, on-farm instruction, etc.



- **Innovation:** investments in the development and scale-up of input innovation



- **Infrastructure:** assessment & mapping of organic storage and processing capacity



- **Demand creation:** cost share and/or transition price premiums (with purchasing contracts)







# POLICY





Thank You

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